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Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-15 EUR-12

SAJ-01 NSC-05 /064 W
---------- 068921
R 030517Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5183
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5461

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, LA
SUBJ: CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES COMPOUND IN VIENTIANE

REF: A) VIENTIANE 5236 (NOTAL)
B) VIENTIANE 5442, DTG 020400Z SEP 75

1. HAVING HEARD NOTHING FOR MORE THAN A MONTH FROM COLONEL SINOUANE SOURISAK OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ABOUT THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE BY THE PGNU (REF A) OF THE COMPOUND NEAR WATTAY AIRPORT BELONGING TO CONTI-ENTAL AIR SERVICES, INC. (CASI), WE ATTEMPTED LAST WEEK TO TRACK HIM DOWN. WE LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT COL. SINOUANE -- LIKE MANY OTHER FIELD-GRADE OFFICERS OF THE FORMER FAR -- IS NOW ATTENDING A SEMINAR OF UNKNOWN DURATION IN SAM NEUA. (FACT THAT HE IS SON-IN-LAW OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE PHENG PHONGSAVAN WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO EXEMPT HIM.)

2. SINOUANE'S OFFICE REFERRED US TO COL. DAMDOUANE PHOMDUANGSI (LPF), ATTACHE DE CABINET TO THE (LPF)
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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE. HE TOLD US

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CASI COMPOUND WAS NOW "IN POSSESSION OF" HIS MINISTRY
BUT SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF PURCHASE IDEA. HE REFERRED
US BACK TO COL. SINOUSANE, OMITTING TO MENTION SINOUANE'S
PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

3. MEANWHILE, THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT THE COM-
POUND EITHER HAS BEEN OR IS ABOUT TO BE TURNED OVER TO
THE SOVIETS AS QUARTERS FOR AEROFLOT OR OTHER AIRCREW
AND GROUND PERSONNEL, WHO REPRESENT MAJOR ELEMENT OF
GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE HERE (REF B). FOR ONE THING,
MAIN BUILDING SPROUTED AIR-CONDITIONERS ONCE AGAIN OVER
LABOR DAY WEEKEND (CASI MANAGER JOSEPH HAD EARLIER SOLD
ALL THE AIR-CONDITIONERS AND MOST OF THE FURNITURE
TO VARIOUS PRIVATE BUYERS). FOR ANOTHER, A LAO-CHINESE
WOMAN EXPERIENCED AT PREPARING WESTERN CUISINE AND
CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY EMBOFFS HAD "PRIVATE SEMINAR"
AUGUST 24 WITH PATHET LAO, WHO TOLD HER SHE MUST QUIT
HER PRESENT JOB AND REPORT VERY SOON TO CASI COMPOUND
TO INSTRUCT OTHER LAO WOMEN WHO WOULD BE COOKING FOR "SOVIETS"
IN USE OF STOVES AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF GASTRONOMIC ART.

4. TAKEOVER OF CASI COMPOUND IS THUS ON ITS WAY TO
BECOMING AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT. WHETHER OR WHEN WE
WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SOME OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THAT
FACT, HOWEVER, IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT.

5. ASSUME DEPT WILL WISH TO NOTIFY BOB DABNEY (STATE
191772, NOTAL) OF FOREGOING.

6. FOR BANGKOK: PLEASE PASS GIST OF FOREGOING TO
DONALD HARPER OF CASI/BANGKOK, BUMC BLDG., 2ND FLOOR,
144 SUKHUMVIT ROAD, TELEPHONE 524061, EXT 76, OR
527062.

7. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE BANGKOK
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